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PROBE 320

BY JOHN LANG

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW ORLEANS, MARCH 4 (AP)-DIST. ATTY. JIM GARRISON WAS REPORTED TODAY SEEKING A POSSIBLE CONNECTION BETWEEN LEE HARVEY OSWALD, THE ACCUSED ASSASSIN OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, AND A GROUP OF MEN INVOLVED IN A 1963 FBI RAID ON A MUNITIONS CACHE IN LACOMBE, LA.

THE REPORT CAME AFTER DANTE MAROCHINI, (CQ) 42, THE FOURTH MAN SUBPOENAED IN GARRISON'S PROBE OF AN ALLEGED ASSASSINATION PLOT, SPENT 90 MINUTES IN THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE LATE YESTERDAY.

"I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS DARN THING IS ALL ABOUT," MAROCHINI TOLD NEWSMEN BEFORE HE ENTERED GARRISON'S OFFICE.

WHEN HE EMERGED, A CROWD OF NEWSMEN PURSUED HIM. HE RAN AWAY SHOUTING, "WHAT THE HECK! I KNOW THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS -- BUT THIS?"

THE FIRST REPORT OF GARRISON'S INTEREST IN THE AMMUNITION SEIZURE CAME FROM WDSU-TV WHICH SAID IT HAD BEEN INFORMED BY RELIABLE SOURCES THAT HE WAS TRYING TO TRACE THE IDENTITY OF AT LEAST ONE AMERICAN -- NOT OSWALD --WHO WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN IN THE GROUP.

AMONG THE ITEMS SEIZED IN THE RAID JULY 31, 1963 AT AN UNOCCUPIED HOUSE IN LACOMBE, ABOUT 20 MILES NORTH OF HERE, ~~XXXX~~ WERE 20 EMPTY 100-POUND BOMB CASINGS; 48 CASES OF DYNAMITE, NAPALM AND FIRING CAPS.

THE FBI SAID THE EXPLOSIVES WERE DESIGNED FOR USE BY PERSONS PLANNING "A MILITARY OPERATION AGAINST A FOREIGN COUNTRY WITH WHICH THE UNITED STATES IS AT PEACE."

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THE FBI IDENTIFIED THE OWNER OF THE HOUSE AS WILLIAM JULIUS MCLANEY OF NEW ORLEANS. HIS WIFE WAS QUOTED IN AN INTERVIEW AS SAYING THE HOUSE HAD BEEN LOANED TO A CUBAN EXILE FRIEND SHE KNEW ONLY AS "JOSE JUAREZ." SHE SAID SHE AND HER HUSBAND HAD LIVED IN CUBA UNTIL 1960 AND MOVED TO NEW ORLEANS "BECAUSE CASTRO MADE THINGS IMPOSSIBLE DOWN THERE."

MRS. MCLANEY WAS ASKED LAST NIGHT IF GARRISON'S INVESTIGATORS OR ANYONE ELSE HAD CONTACTED HER RECENTLY ABOUT THE INCIDENT. SHE REPLIED "NO" TO BOTH QUESTIONS AND REFUSED TO SAY ANYTHING FURTHER.

MAROCHINI AND OSWALD ONCE WERE EMPLOYED HERE AT THE SAME TIME BY THE SAME COFFEE MANUFACTURER, THOUGH IN PLANTS A BLOCK APART, RECORDS SHOW.

OSWALD WAS AN EMPLOYE OF THE WILLIAM B. REILY CO. PLANT IN THE SUMMER OF 1963. MAROCHINI WORKED THAT SAME SUMMER AT THE STANDARD COFFEE CO. BOTH FIRMS WERE OWNED BY W. B. REILY.

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